

THE Asylum

VOL. 34 NO. 4



WINTER 2016

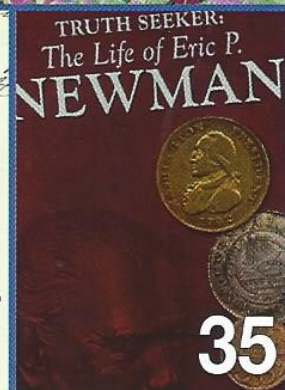
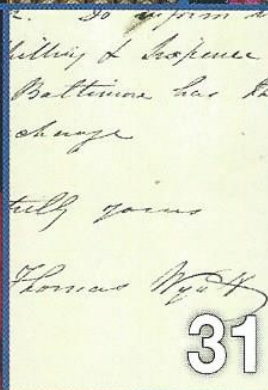
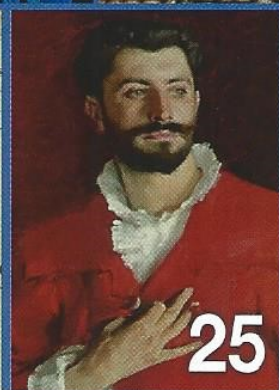
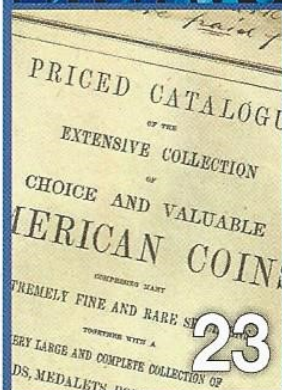
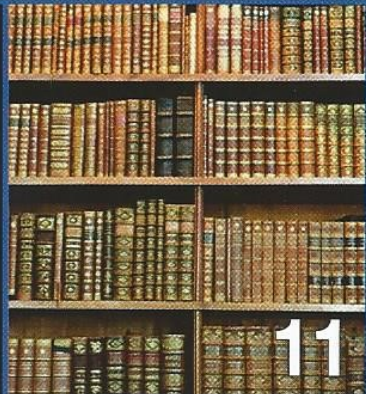
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CIRCULAR TO COIN COLLECTORS.

No. 1225 CHESTNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA, October 15, 1881.

past six years, I have formed a collection of the varieties of the United States Dollar, Half Dollar and with the view of publishing a work upon the same, giving with detail and minuteness full descriptions so that they could be readily distinguished. This has cost me many hours of labor and close application of the varieties have very close resemblance to each other, great care has been necessary to describe them so that they can be easily identified. Many of the descriptions are very long, and I think with attention and care I can determine the variety. Having decided not to issue a work upon the subject (at least at present), I have for my whole type table of the United States Dollars, Half Dollars and Quarter Dollars for sale at Philadelphia as full descriptions with numbers as they would have in a special work upon the subject. It will give the finest specimens of the varieties that I could obtain from my stock and sales at auction and all the varieties issued, still I think not many others will be found, probably not only those that are well centered and

THE FUTURE NUMIS MATIC LITERATURE



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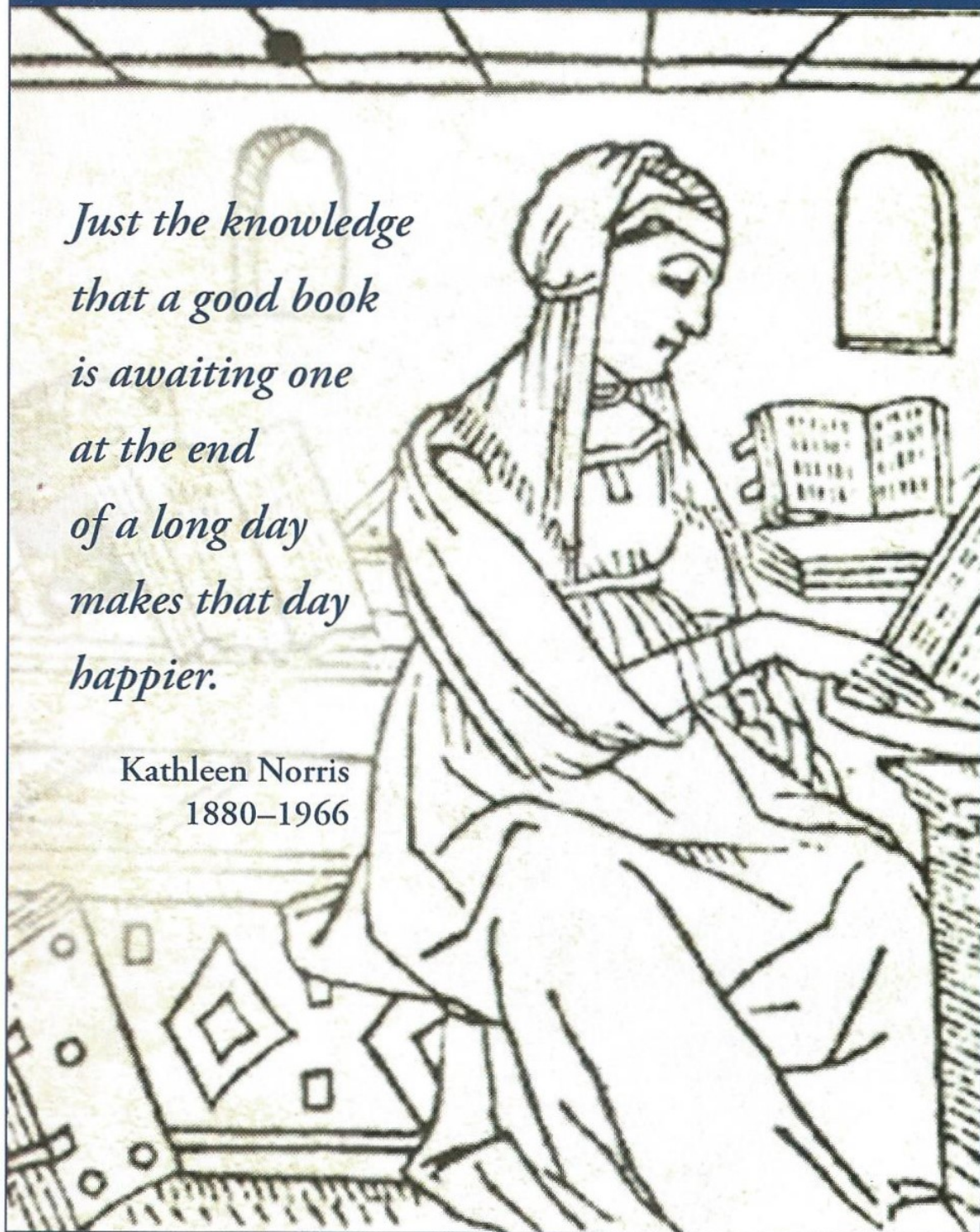
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*Just the knowledge
that a good book
is awaiting one
at the end
of a long day
makes that day
happier.*

Kathleen Norris
1880–1966



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Submissions: *The Asylum* (ISSN 1552-1931) is published in four issues per year. Submissions should be sent to the editor at nbsasylum@gmail.com. Authors, please put your name(s) and contact information on all submitted material. All accepted manuscripts become the property of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society. For more information, please contact the editor.

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Deadlines for Submissions and Advertising:

Spring Issue (No. 1) February 1	Autumn Issue (No. 3) August 1
Summer Issue (No. 2) May 1	Winter Issue (No. 4) November 1

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President's Message

Marc C. Ricard, NBS President

Dear Friends,

What an exciting time to be a part of Numismatic Literature collecting! With the Newman Portal project in full swing, various mail-bid and auction sales, and many new books becoming available, it gives me great hope for the future of our collecting specialty.

We are also very privileged to enjoy our fine NBS publication, *The Asylum*, which you hold in your hands right now. This is a benefit of your ongoing membership in our great organization. I encourage all of you to share your copies with non-NBS members and friends, and ask them to join.

I was delighted to see so many of you in Anaheim for our annual Symposium and General Meeting and Auction. I would like to thank Fred Holabird, Len Augsburg, and Wayne Homren for their enlightening presentations. I can also report that thanks to a very successful auction, NBS can continue to produce and send this publication to our members through 2017.

I thank all of you for continuing to encourage everyone in the hobby to "Buy the Book, Before the Coin".

Best regards,
Marc Charles Ricard
President, NBS



It's NBS membership renewal time!

Don't miss an issue of *The Asylum* and
renew your membership today.

Renewal forms have been included with this issue with new rates and options. Fill out and return the enclosed renewal forms with payment to NBS Treasurer Terry White at the address on the form.

You may also pay online with PayPal at **coinbooks.org**.

Letters to the Editor

Thank you to all NBS members who shared their thoughts on the last issue and gave their permission to be published. Please send all letters to the editor to:

nbsasylum@gmail.com
Maria Fanning, *The Asylum* Editor
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Dear Editor,

I have been a member of NBS for quite awhile but only rarely find anything in *The Asylum* of interest to me. This has not bothered me because I am really into NBS for the fellowship and passing on the knowledge on preserving the numismatic books that cover my interests in Southeast Asia.

Then your Autumn 2016 issue of *The Asylum* arrived. Bingo! I could not stop reading it from your introduction to the last article. I am now thinking about adding my comments in some short articles about almost every article in the issue.

The last article; *History in Your Hands Foundation*, was particularly interesting. When I used to staff a club table for NBS at major shows (I retired at 75), I would hand out packets of world coins and paper money to young people. But when I found someone looking at our table was a teacher, I would give them a sack of world coins and paper money and said they would be perfect for their history and geography classes. All of the teachers were enthusiastic about doing it, and one of my treasures is a thank you letter from an entire class.

Keep up the good work. I will be sending some articles to you.

Best regards,

Howard A. Daniel III

To the Editor:

I thoroughly enjoyed the insightful platform you and several of our stalwart members presented in the Autumn 2016 issue of *The Asylum* detailing the future of our hobby. After contemplating the comprehensive forum spelling out the many advantages and perils confronting numismatic bibliophiles as paper transitions to a digital format, I decided to weigh in with some thoughts. Admittedly, at best, predicting the future is a precarious undertaking. Nevertheless, the results of this intriguing venture can be thought provoking and even help influence our course of action.

Like many observers, my sense is that digitization will prompt many pure researchers to utilize digital formats and thus dramatically, limit the scope of their libraries. However, I believe for those of us bitten by the collecting bug there will, or at least should be a multitude of volumes that capture our attention.

The collecting passion is typically driven by the thrill of the chase, pride of ownership, the satisfaction of completing a defined collection, and researching the history

of our prized artifacts. While these factors play a role to varying degrees in our collecting experiences, I am convinced the greater goal of the exercise is to create a story of our collecting passion. Incorporating supportive components such as photos, correspondence, various ephemera, and of course, numismatic literature will result in the whole being more gratifying and worthwhile than the individual parts.

For example, what colonial specialist would not covet an original edition of Crosby's *Early Coins of America* to complement his or her collection? Once the Crosby is in hand, the inquisitive collector might investigate the NNP and be tempted to pursue John Haseltine's June 27-29, 1883 Sale of Crosby's personal collection. If the enthusiast was to probe a bit deeper, their catalog options would exponentially expand to the great colonial collections of Mickley, Bushnell, and Parmelee. This illustration taken to the ultimate would lead our now confirmed bibliophile to follow Jeff Hosford's model in creating his collection of Crosbyana as detailed in Kolbe and Fanning's January 8, 2011 Sale.

The point is, the coin need not be the end result of our collecting endeavor but rather a starting point. Only the limits of our imagination can dictate the parameters of our collections. If we indulge our inquisitive instincts, our collections can rise above mediocrity. There is a powerful allure to tangible objects for those of us possessed with a strong collecting DNA. From my perspective, coins and their associated literature are inextricable. I am confident this broader collecting approach will also help ensure an enduring interest in numismatics. Part of the fun is not knowing what surprises are awaiting our discovery; and isn't fun, or more specifically enjoyment, the objective of our pastime?

As more collectors are exposed to the merits of numismatic literature through digitization, perhaps they will appreciate the innumerable benefits of incorporating these historical voices into their collecting narrative. Undoubtedly, the digital revolution will have an adverse effect on certain segments of our hobby, but we can only hope other hobbyists may be drawn into the bibliomania world as a result of technology. Our coins spend the majority of their life in bank vaults while we view photos of them on a computer screen. Fortunately, our literature remains ensconced on our library shelves just an arm's length away. How fortunate for us who have discovered the joy of surrounding ourselves with the chorus of voices from our numismatic forefathers that communicate the story of our collecting passion!

Tom Harrison

Dear Editor,

I read Joel Orosz's article, "Lawrenceville or Louisville," in the current electronic issue of *The Asylum* with interest. I have to confess, I am, and will always be, primarily a Lawrenceville type. Being new to the hobby, I have worked to build a substantial library to the delight of David Fanning.

I have worked with the Newman Portal, which is fantastic and includes many of my auction catalogues but not all. I do not view using electronic versus hard copy as an either/or decision but more as being complimentary to one another. I find the original plates to be superior to those viewed on a computer. Additionally, while do-

ing provenance research, there is nothing like the thrill of holding the old catalogue while plating one of my coins.

One of my most exciting finds related to my 1792 copper patten Disme Judd-10. I had just acquired it in the September 2015 Heritage auction and then quickly plated it to the 1874 Harrison Sanford Collection. In January, it was to my delight that I was able to plate my coin to the August 1869 edition of the *American Journal of Numismatics*. A digitized version might not have highlighted the telltale planchette flaw above liberty. It was exciting finding it in the second photographic plate of US coins and then I added to that excitement by sharing my discovery with Pete Smith, who added this new information to the forthcoming book, "1792: Birth of a Nation's Coinage," by Joel Orosz, Len Augsburger and Pete Smith. This was just over the top for me. It was energizing.

Yep, I may be electronically proficient but when it comes to these wonderful treasures of history, there is nothing like holding them in your hand and feeling as though you have been transported back to another time. An electronic image of the same thing just does not do it for me.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Rodriguez

Dear Editor,

I have to say that the recent issue is absolutely superb, and it's the first in several years that I've read in its entirety, word for word. The future of numismatic literature publishing and collecting is such a critical topic right now, and the articles really hit home.

I was particularly drawn to Neil Musante's piece about the pros and cons of writing a hard copy book in an increasingly digital world. One sentence of his, in particular, sums up how I feel when I go about writing a book. He states his hope "that the book will be an object that provides great satisfaction as a tangible expression of my time and labor and will be something that I am proud to hold in my hands." Personally, I don't feel that a book really exists unless I can read a bound copy and then return it to a shelf. I will not perform years of research and writing, not to mention the effort and expense of self publishing under my own imprint, to simply load the completed work online and not have a print edition. That online resource may or may not remain accessible in 100 years time, but a well bound book printed on heavy stock will always exist somewhere, even if it's largely forgotten upon its author's passing.

After many years of writing popular books about United States coins that were commercially published and sold fairly well, I found that it was no longer a rewarding experience for me. I had different issues with different publishers, but the end result was that I was never fully satisfied with the finished product. There was another reason, too, that I changed direction. Since I write about United States coins daily on behalf of my employer, to do so on my own time was becoming little more than extended hours at the office. I enjoy writing my long-running column in *The Numismatist*, but I no longer have the will to write a full length book on mainstream topics that are not of compelling interest to me.

It was with that in mind that I finally decided ten years ago to write the book that I wanted to read in my own area of collecting. This expression has become a cliché among hobby writers in many fields, but it really does express how I feel in writing books about coin boards, folders and albums. No publisher was asking for such, so I knew that I'd have to self publish. To do so I created my own publishing imprint, PennyBoard Press. I've put out three titles thus far, and I have at least a half dozen more books that I want to write, if circumstances will allow.

I never expected to sell large numbers of these books, but it has been revealing to me just how rapidly the number of books I sell has declined in ten years time. When my first PBP book came out in 2007 on the subject of vintage coin boards, it sold several hundred copies in its first two years. When the next book came out in 2013 on National Coin Albums and related products, I sold about 100 books in the same time frame. While it's premature to compare numbers just yet, it appears that my most recent book on Library of Coins albums and other publications of The Coin and Currency Institute will fall well short of that number.

As both the content and the production value of these books continue to improve, sales are falling. Some of this is perhaps attributable to the aging of our collector base; young people have no memory of these products and are thus unlikely to see them as collectible objects worthy of study. That was my choice in selecting the topics. Some of the decline in sales is due to the growing perception that these books will inevitably be available for free on the internet. This may come to pass, but probably not within the period covered by copyright. As Neil pointed out in his article, a general decline in prosperity and disposable income is also a factor. I believe it's an especially important one, and I can cite examples.

My first book came out just as the housing market was beginning to take its tumble but before the big financial crisis of 2008-09 and the resulting depression. I observed that many collectors and dealers who had no interest in the subject of coin boards bought my first self-published book simply because there was money to spare and it seemed like a fun novelty. By the time of my second title, people were being much more choosy in their spending; many ultimately bought my book, but they waited a year or so to see if the price came down. With my latest book, sales have been restricted almost entirely to persons actually collecting the objects in question and those who are simply compelled to have extensive numismatic libraries, regardless of the specific topic. No one is buying books purely on impulse these days, and even important references can go begging. Under these circumstances, my measure of success with this latest book will be selling as many copies as I've donated or sent out as promotional copies. I have achieved this goal, but I've not yet exceeded it, and that's an alarming sign for the future.

I truly want to continue this series of volumes on the coin albums produced in the USA, but it's no longer practical to put out a high quality book that doesn't generate decent sales. I'm willing to write off the cost, as are most specialty authors in the numismatic field, but the growing lack of floor space in my home is inescapable. To get a book printed and bound in an attractive and durable manner, with fully sewn and not glued signatures, typically requires a minimum press run of 300 copies to keep the list price within reason. With my most recent book I asked for a quote on 150 copies,

and the unit cost was clearly prohibitive. It was a question of printing 300 copies and selling perhaps a third of them over the next few years versus printing 150 and selling no more than a couple dozen at a high price. I opted to get more books sold, since all authors want to create some sort of lasting legacy. There is no legacy when hundreds of books go into a dumpster upon the author's death.

Regards,
David W. Lange

Dear Editor,

I joined the NBS in 2008 and this is the first time I have felt compelled to e-mail the editor.

After the long weekend I was able to get to my mailbox, I am always delighted to see *The Asylum* in its wrapper waiting for me. I want to extend appreciation for the topic discussed in the latest issue (vol 34 #3). It was well put together and certainly resonated with me. As a numismatic researcher who relied on my own personal collection for the information I needed for pedigree research, I have noticed that the online sources are becoming more and more comprehensive. This topic has been on my mind recently as I have reached a near stopping point in my numismatic publications collecting. My original "want list" from 2006 is almost checked off and I have been searching for reason to validate my efforts. I have come to realize—and the articles in the latest issue have amplified my thoughts—that my little research library does not have the "value" that I have placed on it while it was assembled. Fortunately for my library I have always purchased the "best" available editions when possible and have assembled sets of special edition catalogs and companion books. My personal preference for limited edition copies of informational books and catalogs has now become the redefined "value" of my collected library. I never saw this viewpoint until reading the latest issue.

I would like to provide some commentary on my conclusions based on the articles in the latest issue.

I feel that my opinion aligns best with Joel Orosz as this was the reality I concluded myself: not seeing the value in the actual books for what they are and not what they contain. I find it ironic that the meeting synopsis conspires with the theme in telling the membership that dues will increase to cover printing costs, while offering the alternative of a digital copy. A publication for collectors of physical material to offer a digital copy in lieu of physical copies sounds to me like a greatly entertaining round table discussion truly fitting of the NBS. (I type that with a smile just thinking about it.) I do think that offering a digital copy, if promoted, will increase membership. The *E-Sylum* has 2000+ subscribers and the club has around 360 members, I believe.

Again I want to thank you for the provocative theme of the latest issue, it was enjoyable to read and I feel essential for the club to address. You did very well to solicit so many viewpoints and present them in one volume. Perhaps more themed issues could be in the future for *The Asylum*, provoking discussion akin to the old "house organs" some of our members collect.

Respectfully,
Doug Trentmann

Dear Editor,

Charles Davis's article in the Autumn 2016 issue of *The Asylum* examines the arc of numismatic literature collecting over the past generation, and concludes with gratitude for the past but little optimism for the future. An organization can only be born once, and the 1980s brought the excitement of new discovery, the publication of now standard bibliographic works, and the opportunity to fraternally connect with fellow bibliophiles through the NBS. Davis reminds us of the vibrancy of mid-1990s, with well-attended ANA conclaves leading toward the feast of the Champa sales in 1994 and 1995.

The impact of the Internet was not far behind. Google was founded in 1998 and internally launched the Google Books project in 2002. As of 2015, over 25 million books had been scanned. Internet Archive and HathiTrust similarly scanned millions of works. The Internet impacted book distribution as well, as anyone could set up as a book dealer on Abebooks.com and other sites. Book collectors regularly combed rare book sites and cherry picked items that might previously have migrated into the inventory of a numismatic bookseller.

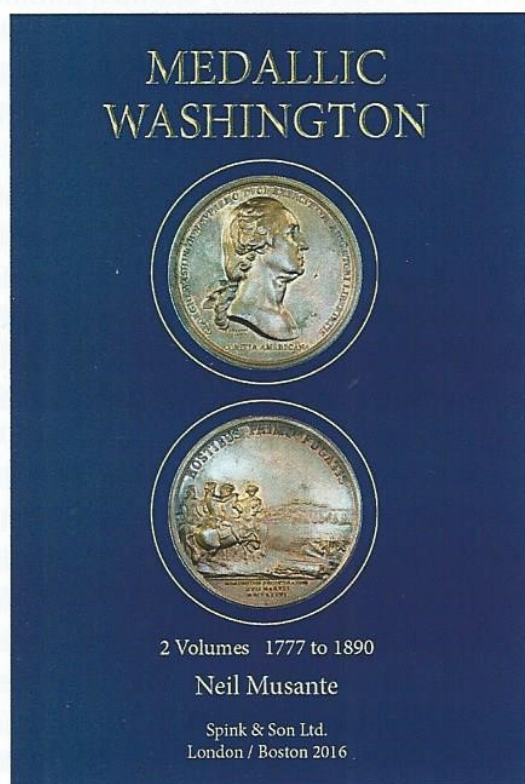
Through all of this, the targets of our affection, the coins, medals, and paper money about which we create and collect printed works, did not change. A Massachusetts silver coin is today the same tangible object as a century ago. The questions we ask about numismatic objects are also unchanged. We want to classify them, to understand their legislative and physical origin, their use in commerce, and their travels through the collecting fraternity. While the objects and fundamental questions are the same, the way we approach their study is constantly evolving.

At a recent coin show a researcher remarked that he preferred research the "old-fashioned way," when one dug through musty archives and sleuthed a trail from a book to a knowledgeable colleague (or trusted book dealer) to a crinkled old journal, and so on. The chase was more thrilling and rich, it was thought, than merely sitting at a computer. There is some truth to this, as the author can personally attest (see the Augsburg/Orosz article "The Numismatic Bulldog," *The Asylum*, October-December 2009). Traveling to an archive and fighting through the local bureaucracy (understaffed, obstinate, unknowledgeable, and yes, sometimes magical in their grasp of collection resources) forces a discipline to locate high-value targets and maximize research bandwidth with careful preparation. The Internet is in some ways antithetical and without doubt enables the slothful that use it to make connections without applying critical thought.

All of this is no excuse to ignore modern technology. Although numismatic objects and the nature of our inquiries about them have not changed, the way we approach their study has, and the toolbox has expanded. We can now put a highly specialized library at the world's fingertips and use search to advance knowledge in ways not available to the previous generation. David Fanning, in the 2009 *Asylum* (October-December issue), related the ease with which he used Google to solve Eric Newman's mystery of the origin of an eighteenth-century coin conversion chart (presented in the Summer 1996 *Asylum*). Fanning concluded with the statement "Let no one suggest that new technology is the enemy of the bibliophile." Digital resources are indeed disruptive, and unquestionably change the way numismatic literature is accessed and

traded. The Newman Portal is not blind to this, but our objective remains to push numismatic knowledge forward through the use of today's technologies. Newman, by dint of longevity, understands "old-fashioned" research more intimately than any of us, but also understands the need to enable the numismatist of the future. This is our mission.

Len Augsburger
Project Coordinator, Newman Numismatic Portal
Washington University in St. Louis



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In Defense of a Library

by Christopher Faulkner

I read with considerable interest the various articles in the last issue of *The Asylum* (Autumn 2016) to do with the digitization of numismatic literature. I'm not sure those articles close the discussion, however, so I would like to offer a few thoughts. As interesting as the articles were, I nevertheless found the arguments, whether for or against digitization, to be both partial and incomplete: partial because they recognized but one kind of numismatic literature, and incomplete because the positions taken were inclined to emphasize but one kind of value in the literature under discussion.

The majority of the articles come down squarely on the side of digitization and emphasize the virtues of immediate online access and the efficiency of powerful search tools for the purposes of numismatic inquiry. The kind of numismatic literature that is judged to deserve digitization largely comprises auction and fixed price catalogues, or the sorts of studies which involve complex die variety analysis. In this view, it is inevitable that the conventional numismatic book dealer and the traditional numismatic bibliophile are doomed to change their ways or become extinct.

Digitization is here to stay and we should accept it. Nevertheless, I do not believe that numismatic books are destined either to become *objets d'art* in fine bindings which are never read, or simply accumulations which are well read but not properly preserved. These are not necessarily mutually exclusive positions, of course. The numismatic bibliophile need not be set over against the pure researcher. Obviously, one could have a collection in fine bindings which is consulted on a regular basis and drives additional research, just as one could have a vast and ragged accumulation which sits idle and never adds to our understanding. But either of those distinctions misses the point, both about books and about libraries.

The point is that without exception all of the articles in *The Asylum* special issue argue that what is enabled by digitization is the acquisition of *information*. This is the value that is seen to lie with the kind of literature which is favoured by digitization. And I believe that judgment is correct. But I also believe that the acquisition of information is both the strength and the weakness of digitization. Information is one, particular kind of understanding. To put the matter a bit simplistically, information is what we get from catalogues, lists, charts, tables; in short, it is what we tend to call data. To that end, as everyone concurs, the online world is ideal because it can make data widely available and easily accessible. It short-circuits the slow process of traditional means of communication and the tedious physical library search. It has reduced the time-consuming hunt to a few clicks and the communication of results to a clever interface. There can be no question that for the numismatist the online world facilitates the production of research on such logistically difficult problems as die studies. It enables us to classify, map, link, and index with a facility that was unthinkable heretofore. And of course, that is, by definition, what numismatists do; we organize data into categories of explanation. In this regard, given the utility of the internet, form perfectly matches function.

Presumably, that is what justifies numismatics being called a (self-described) science. This, we might say, is our Enlightenment legacy, a legacy we share with many other fields whose goals also involve organizing data into categories of explanation (from geology to genetics). Principal among the attributes required to achieve these goals is the exercise of reason. Reason is what enables us to bring logic, order, and sequence to what we do. This is instrumental reason, the exercise of reason with a determined, goal-driven purpose. Its greatest value is utility. At its best, instrumental reason is a necessary tool for efficient problem-solving. At its worst, however, instrumental reason objectifies our relationship to information and to the world around us. It severs the bond between subject (us/ ourselves) and object (it/ them). Its results are out there, at a distance, and do not require our presence, bathed as they are in the cold, harsh light of abstraction. It enables us to act on something but not necessarily with something. It is instrumental reason which has got us into trouble with body-destroying weapons, soul-destroying urban space, and the (impending) total destruction of the environment.

But the exercise of instrumental reason is not our only guide to how we may want or choose to live and learn. In a wonderful essay entitled “Unpacking My Library: A Talk About Book Collecting,” the great twentieth century cultural theorist Walter Benjamin has this to say about the lure of books:

O bliss of the collector, bliss of the man of leisure! ... For inside him there are spirits, or at least little genii, which have seen to it that for a collector—and I mean a real collector, a collector as he ought to be—ownership is the most intimate relationship that one can have to objects. Not that they come alive in him; it is he who lives in them.¹

“It is he [*sic*] who lives in them.” What does Benjamin mean exactly? Throughout his essay Benjamin evokes the “memories,” the “images,” the “enchantment,” which arise as he unpacks his collection and sets it out on fresh shelves. Surrounded by the broken crates from which they have come, the crumpled paper in which they were wrapped, and the dust-filled air of the room in which they are being given renewed life, Benjamin recalls the provenance of his books, the circumstances under which they were acquired at auction or private sale in cities across Europe, along with other rooms at other times in which they were housed, protected, and read (or not). I believe that what Benjamin is saying in this very moving essay about what his books and his library mean to him is that one of the most important connections we can have with books is an affective one. The affective relationship to one’s books is where their provenance becomes important, where their authors’ inscriptions and readers’ annotations take on life, and where and when we may have read them becomes an indissociable part of what they mean. A number of contributors to *The Asylum* special issue testified to this power which lies with the ownership of books.

But the very act of reading itself also involves us emotionally. At the extremes we may, when we read, fall into gales of laughter or a well of tears. Ordinarily, however, what we experience as we read is the simple rise and fall of pleasure. Is that not the narrative arc of every well-crafted sentence as it moves from anticipation to fulfillment? And is our experience of every sentence not the whole of a book in microcosm?

More than that, however, when I say that one of the most important connections we have with books is an affective one, I am also thinking of a relationship with their meaning—and with meaning altogether—meaning which is reflective, complicated, unpredictable, irregular, and not easily mediated by pre-determined ideas or prevailing discourses of intelligibility. To this way of thinking, meaning is not necessarily fixed or stable; it has constantly to be negotiated. It is, I might say, nothing less than a force field of energy in which the taken for granted gets challenged by the inquiring mind. This is where knowledge (rather than information) comes into the picture and changes everything, because now a different form (of understanding) produces a different function.

I am fully aware that I am presenting knowledge as a state of being in the world, and not merely as another kind of understanding which complements the acquisition of information. It is this state of being in the world which leads to critical thinking, which breaks down the opposition between subject and object, which allows us to enter the world of others and their meanings and freely acknowledge their equal presence with ourselves. If we think about the acquisition of numismatic knowledge in this way, it becomes as much an art as it is a science. The practice of reading becomes the art of thinking. We thereby move away from enslavement to any form of understanding which is simply of utilitarian or financial value, away from any model for being and knowing that is at the expense of someone or something.

This is why one cannot just as well read a book online as off. In addition to the laying out of data in various formats, the online world is ideal for the one, two, or five short paragraphs of an informative contribution to the *The E-Sylum*. But the prospect of reading online Adam Smith's *The Wealth of Nations* (1776), or Richard Doty's *The Soho Mint and the Industrialization of Money* (1998), to pick a couple of random examples of books which produce knowledge, rather than just information, is impossibly daunting. For that matter, even though it is nominally a catalogue, I have no desire to read Sylvester Crosby's *The Early Coins of America* (1875) online either. If we were to attempt to read any of these books online we would find ourselves constantly fighting against the critical, complicated demands they make by attempting to turn the knowledge they produce into information.

You cannot own the content of your computer screen (as a collector owns his or her books), there is no magic about its virtual presence (it evokes in us none of Benjamin's "spirits" or "little genii"). There is no enchantment to be had in recalling its earlier life because it has no history, no attachments, no associations, as a book and reading do. It is impossible to live in one's computer, or notepad, or phone (although most of the population seems to be trying very hard to do so). The a-historical, virtual presence of the online world is a world without a before and after, a world in which time can be overcome in an instant and space crossed in a flash. It is designed to work like that. Here is space without volume and time without dimension. Time and space have collapsed to a single point which is everywhere and nowhere at once.

My mentor was the Canadian numismatist Fred Bowman (1889-1978), who was the first recipient of the J. Douglas Ferguson Award in 1969, the highest award in Canadian numismatics, and in 1976 the winner of the Farran Zerbe Memorial Award, the highest award of the American Numismatic Association. Both awards were given

for a lifetime of distinguished research and publication. As it happens, Mr. Bowman smoked White Owl cigars. On my library shelves there are a number of monographs given to me by Mr. Bowman more than fifty years ago. When I take one down, as I often do, and open its pages, from deep in its folds comes the unmistakable smell of cigar smoke. That sensation invariably takes me back to the Saturday afternoons when a teenage boy rang the bell at 210 53rd Avenue, Lachine (Montreal), Quebec. The door would be opened by Alice, Mrs. Bowman, who would greet me with a smile and say, "Fred's upstairs." There, in his study, a right turn at the top of the stairs, Mr. Bowman would patiently answer my questions, show me books and coins and tokens, and tell me about fellow collectors and about collectors and collections of the past. He was a shy, modest man who was even then fifty years older than I was. I can't say I remember many specifics about what I may have learned during all those visits I made to that magical space at the top of the stairs, but I do remember Mr. Bowman's kindness, his generosity. What I learned was at the edges of the tangible.

Even as Walter Benjamin defends his love of books, he freely admits that "this passion is behind the times" because public institutions have rendered the private collector obsolete, and "that time is running out for the type that I am discussing here. ... But," he adds, "as Hegel puts it, only when it is dark does the owl of Minerva begin its flight. Only in extinction is the collector comprehended."² This was said in 1931.

We need to read books; they need us to read them.



Notes

- 1 Walter Benjamin, "Unpacking My Library: A Talk About Book Collecting," in *Illuminations*, ed. Hannah Arendt (New York: Harcourt, Brace and World, 1968): 67. The essay was first published in German in 1931.
- 2 Benjamin 1968: 66-67.

*In recognition of
Numismatic Bibliophile
Fred Lake
on his retirement.*



*Your 125 mail bid sales of numismatic literature
have helped to create a legion of new collectors.
Your contributions will always be reflected
in the vitality of the hobby.*

Linda Louise Kolbe, 1942–2016

The Numismatic Bibliomania Society wishes to mark the passing of Linda Kolbe, first Secretary of the NBS, wife of George Kolbe, and behind-the-scenes worker in the development of the George Frederick Kolbe Fine Numismatic Books business. A native of Portland, Maine, Linda and her family moved to Pasadena, California, while she was still a child. It was in Pasadena that she met George Kolbe, whom she married in 1961.



In May 1967, living in Redondo Beach at the time, the pair issued *Numismatic Literature for Sale: List #1* under the G. Frederick Kolbe banner, and a new business was born. While catalogued by George, the list was produced by Linda, who typed the three-page offering five times, each time using a special carbon-copy gathering that produced five copies at a time, for a total “press run” of twenty-five copies. A second list was published two months later, this time typed by Linda on mimeograph stencils, a method the Kolbes used for several of these early fixed-price lists.

Linda remained an active participant in the business as it grew, fielding phone calls, attending to correspondence, mailing catalogues, and many other administrative tasks associated with the business. At time went on, she met many of us in the numismatic book world and participated in some of the most important auctions of numismatic books held in this country. While several other remarkable instances of her involvement could be cited, her management of the phone bids for Bidder No. 15 in the landmark June 1, 1990 sale including material from the John W. Adams library remains notable. This exceptional sale brought heavy bidding from collectors throughout the country, but few could vie against this anonymous telephone bidder, who bought very heavily at the auction, causing much curiosity (and irritated guessing) about who was on the other end of the telephone. Linda acquitted herself with professionalism, however, leaving the other bidders scratching their heads over the bidder’s identity until many of the purchased lots reappeared at auction in the Harry W. Bass, Jr. sales.

Those of us who were privileged to know her will always remember her welcoming and generous spirit and her kindness (and patience!) toward those of us in this area of numismatics. She will be missed.

*Our deepest condolences to George and his family—
trailblazers in numismatic literature.*

CIRCULAR TO COIN COLLECTORS.

No. 1225 CHESTNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA, October 15, 1881.

During the past six years, I have formed a collection of the varieties of the United States Dollar, Half Dollar and Quarter Dollar, with the view of publishing a work upon the same, giving with detail and minuteness full descriptions of the varieties, so that they could be readily distinguished. This has cost me many hours of labor and close application. As many of the varieties have very close resemblance to each other, great care has been necessary to describe them so that they can be easily identified. Many of the descriptions are very long, and I think with attention and care any one can determine the variety. Having decided not to issue a work upon the subject (at least at present), I have concluded to offer my whole type table of the United States Dollars, Half Dollars and Quarter Dollars for sale at Public Auction, giving as full descriptions with numbers as they would have in a special work upon the subject. It will be remembered that they are the finest specimens of the varieties that I could obtain from my stock and sales at auction in six years, and while I do not say that they comprise all the varieties issued, still I think not many others will be found. In selecting the specimens for my type table, I have taken great care to obtain only those that are well centered and not misstruck, stars sharp, and bold impressions in every particular. Collectors will discover that they will probably never again have an opportunity of obtaining such beautiful specimens for their cabinets.

The full descriptions of even the common varieties necessitates issuing a catalogue of vast dimensions, which would certainly entail a loss upon me unless I received some recompense for all my labor and research upon the subject sufficient at least to partly pay for the printing. I have, therefore, determined to charge a nominal price for the catalogue, which I think numismatists will not object to paying when they consider that I am actually giving a work to the public which will, in some measure, be a standard for varieties of these coins, filling the place of a book which, if I had issued it, would have cost at least from three dollars to five dollars per copy. I propose to charge fifty cents each for these catalogues. To every person purchasing a copy, there will be forwarded a printed list of the prices each piece sold for at the sale, the pages to correspond with the catalogue, so that it may be bound with it if desired.

In addition to the pieces mentioned above, there will be in the sale rare fine Foreign Bronze Medals and Coins; United States and Foreign Gold Coins; Pattern Pieces, some of which have never before been offered at auction; a fine line of Fractional Currency; a number of uncirculated 1837 Tokens; United States Dimes, Half Dimes, Cents and Half Cents; nearly a full line of Proof Sets, from 1859; Colonials; rare Confederate Notes, &c., all making a three days' sale, to take place in November next.

As the cost of the catalogue is so great, and the number will consequently be limited, it will be necessary for all those desiring one or more catalogues to send in their orders (in all cases accompanied with the cash) as early as possible, as the number printed will depend upon the orders received. There will be twenty-five printed upon thick tinted paper, to be sold, with the priced list inserted, after the sale. The collection will be sold by Messrs. Bangs & Co., No. 739 and 741 Broadway, New York, who will receive orders for the catalogues. Orders will also be received by myself and all responsible dealers throughout the United States. When ordering, please state that you wish

HASELTINE'S TYPE TABLE CATALOGUE.

Paper cover (printed priced list to be sent after the sale),	50 cents,
Paper cover, thick tinted paper, with priced list, the catalogue not to be forwarded until after the sale,	\$1 00
The same, with priced list, bound in cloth,	\$2 00

In order to insure getting a catalogue, send in your orders at once.

Respectfully,

JOHN W. HASELTINE,
No. 1225 CHESTNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

Please send your orders to

Here is a photo of the extremely rare Haseltine Circular, advertising the Haseltine Type Table sale, the sale of Haseltine's personal reference collection of early dollars, early half dollars, and early quarters.
(Photo of the Circular courtesy of Dan Hamelberg).

Circular for Haseltine Type Table Catalogue and Sale

by W. David Perkins, NLG

In January of 1877 coin dealer Ed. Frossard of Irvington, New York initiated a numismatic publication titled, "NUMISMA." The first issue (Volume 1 No. 1) was published in January 1877.

Individual issues of this publication are rare. In the November 1, 2007 George F. Kolbe Auction Sale 104:959 I purchased "Copy #1" (of 31 Copies total) of The Money Tree reprint of the issues of Frossard's *Numisma*, published from 1877 to 1891.

I was reviewing Frossard's *Numisma* in early June 2016 and I enjoyed reading a couple of items that I had previously highlighted. I will share more about these two items in a minute.

The *Haseltine Type Table* sale of dollars, half dollars, and quarters dollars has been a long time research project of mine, as well as with other researchers. Charles Davis authored an article in *The Asylum* (Volume XI, No. 4, Fall 1993) titled, "The Randall Haseltine Type Table" on the subject of both Randall and Haseltine together researching the die marriages for early dollars, early half dollars, and early quarters.

Brad Karoleff is another one of these researchers. Brad and I have talked and corresponded on this subject since 1997.

Today we've all pretty much determined, and agreed, that J. Colvin Randall worked closely with John W. Haseltine on this work, and that Haseltine published it in 1881 with no credit given to Randall, titling the publication, *Catalogue of John W. Haseltine's Type Table of U. S. Dollars, Half Dollars & Quarter Dollars...* November 28, 29 & 30, 1881 (Catalogue by John W. Haseltine / auction by Messrs. Bangs & Co., Nos. 739 and 741 Broadway, New York).

H (Haseltine) & R (Randall) numbers were used in different permutations (H; R; and H&R Numbers!) in a dozen or so early auction sales. We also know (quote from Brad Karoleff in the 1993 Davis article) that Woodward wrote in his introduction to his 77th Sale, June / July 1885, the sale of the J. Colvin Randall Collection, that in a private letter Mr. Randall writes, me, "The idea of a correct work on types and varieties of United States silver dollars, halves, and quarters, originated with me. H. and myself were to publish the work together, but without any consultation whatever with me, he issued for his own benefit what he styles the Type Table Catalogue..."

In the January 1880 issue of *Numisma*, Frossard wrote,

NUMISMATIC PUBLICATIONS, ETC.

Messrs. Haseltine and Randall of Philadelphia are now engaged in a descriptive list of the United States Silver Dollars, Half Dollars and Quarters, a work for which their long experience and thorough knowledge of the subject eminently qualifies them. Mr. Haseltine informs us that the work will describe minutely all the known varieties (impressions from different dies) of each

date, among them the following: 1795 dol. 13 varieties; 1796 dol. 5; 1797 dol. 3; 1798 dol. 30; 1799 dol. 23; 1800 dol. 19; 1801 dol. 4; 1802 dol. 6; 1794 half 7; 1795 half 30 varieties, etc. The work will be freely illustrated with plates of the scarce varieties, handsomely gotten up, and in size and design somewhat similar to the Monograph of U.S. Cents and Half Cents.

This announcement by Frossard is additional proof that Randall and Haseltine were working on this project together. Despite this, it appears that Haseltine was moving forward and publishing his and Randall's research with no credit to Randall.

In the November 1881 Issue, Frossard noted,

The following circular published by Mr. John Haseltine fully explains itself. We will only state that the sale of Mr. Haseltine's valuable collection will take place at Bangs & Co., on the 28, 29 and 30 inst., and that we will take and execute all orders for catalogues at the specified rates:

"During the past six years, I have formed a collection of the United States dollar, half dollar, quarter dollar, with a view of publishing a work upon the same, giving with detail and minuteness full descriptions of the varieties, so that they could be readily distinguished. This has cost me many hours of labor and close application. As many of the varieties have very close resemblance to each other, great care has been necessary to describe them so that they can be easily identified. Many of the descriptions are very long, and I think with attention and care any one can determine the variety. Having decided not to issue a work upon the subject (at least at present), I have concluded to offer my whole type table of the United States Dollars, Half Dollars and Quarter Dollars for sale at Public Auction, giving as full descriptions with numbers as the would have in a special work upon the subject. It will be remembered that they are the finest specimens of the varieties that I could obtain from my stock and sales at auction in six years, and while I do not say that they comprise all the varieties issued, still I think not many others will be found. In selecting the specimens for my type table, I have taken great care to obtain only those that are well centered and not misstruck, stars sharp, and bold impression in every particular. Collectors will discover that they will probably never again have an opportunity of obtaining such beautiful specimens for their cabinets.

The full descriptions of even the common varieties necessitates issuing a catalogue of vast dimensions, which would certainly entail a loss upon me unless I received some recompense for all my labors and research upon the subject sufficient at least to partly pay for the printing. I have, therefore, determined to charge a nominal price for the catalogue, which I think numismatists will not object to paying when they consider that I am actually giving a work to the public which will, in some measure, be a standard for varieties of these coins, filling the place of a book which, if I had issued it, would have cost at least from three dollars to five dollars per copy. I propose to charge fifty cents each for these catalogues. To every person purchasing

a copy, there will be forwarded a printed list of the price sold for at the sale, the pages to correspond with the catalogue, so that it may be bound with it if desired.

"HASELTINE'S TYPE TABLE CATALOGUE"

Paper cover (printed priced list
to be sent after the sale), 50 cents.

Paper cover, thick tinted paper,
with priced list, the catalogue
not to be forwarded until after
the sale... \$1 00

The same, with price list,

Bound in cloth...\$2 00

I have a copy of the Haseltine *Type Table* sale in my library, likely bound sometime after the sale. I'd never seen a copy of the circular, and of course was curious to know if any survived.

I did know that Randall's personal, annotated, copy of the 1881 *Type Table* sale catalogue exists. It was offered as Lot 271 in the B&M Champa sale on November 17, 1994.

I made an educated guess as to who might have a copy of the circular, and who might own Randall's annotated catalogue from Haseltine's sale. I sent an e-mail to Dan Hamelberg, who has one of the finest, if not the finest, numismatic libraries in the U.S. Dan replied quickly to my note, as follows:

I have lot 271 from the Champa Sale in my library. There are many annotations in the catalogue and as I went thru them I did not see any references to Haseltine except for one on the blank page facing page 58 where Randall's expanded description of the 1819 Half notes that "Haseltine wrong in his description of #1-5." There are many expanded descriptions in the Half Dollar section, so I may have missed another reference to Haseltine.

Also, I do have a copy of the circular. I purchased the circular from a Money Tree Sale on 7-30-90. It is a one page 8 x 10 copy and has the wording as indicated in your attachment, with the addition at the bottom after "...bound in cloth....\$2.00" with "In order to insure getting a catalogue, send in your orders at once. Respectfully, John W. Haseltine, No. 1225 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia. Please send your orders to" (the very bottom is left blank for the insertion of a name of some distributor.)

I have several copies of the "Type Table" including 2 interleaved copies (one from the Champa Sale.)

Dan

There were no photographic plates included in the *Type Table* catalogue. I'm likely not alone in wishing that Haseltine and Randall had published a book together, complete with plates for the different die marriages.

On the other hand, up until this time, much of the early numismatic literature covered Large and Half Cents. Haseltine and Randall were pioneers advancing the

collection of early silver U.S. Dollars, Half Dollars, and Quarter Dollars.

Over time, new books by Bolender and later Bowers (Dollars), Beistle and later Overton (Half Dollars), and Browning and later Tomkins and Rea, Peterson, Karoleff, and Kovach (Quarters) have built upon and supplanted the *Type Table* with plate photos, new die marriages, and more information.



J. Colvin Randall is a member of the John Reich Collectors Society (JRCS) Hall of Fame (http://jrsc.org/hall_of_fame.html). The following is what is posted to the JRCS website on Randall (By W. David Perkins):

J. Colvin Randall

Relatively little has been published over the last century pertaining to J. Colvin Randall. Randall was a Philadelphia rare coin dealer and collector, starting as best we can tell in the late 1850s to early 1860s. Rather than host his own sales he typically consigned coins to other auction houses of the time; his name appeared on numerous sales from the 1860s until approximately 1885 when W. Elliot Woodward cataloged the Randall Collection of gold and silver coins for sale at public auction by Bangs & Co. of New York City, NY.

Woodward noted in the Preface to the Randall sale catalog, "Handling vast quantities of coins, he has for the last twenty-five or thirty years been a most earnest and persistent collector, and has made it a constant practice to reserve the finest and rarest pieces which have fallen into his hands during all this period, until his collection is now unrivaled in those specialties to which he has given particular attention, notably the gold coins and the larger coinage of silver. The collection now offered for sale is remarkable in these particulars: First, for variety ... Second, for condition ... Third, Rarity."

Randall was one of the first numismatists to classify and collect the early U.S. silver dollars, half dollars, and quarters by die variety. In fact, many researchers today believe Randall was responsible for much of the research that was published as the Haseltine Type Table Catalog for early silver dollars, half dollars, and quarters. There is ample evidence of this, with R (Randall Numbers) and HR (Haseltine-Randall Numbers) having been used in auction catalogs prior to the 1881 Haseltine Type Table, along with publications stating that Haseltine and Randall were "engaged in a descriptive list of the United States Silver Dollars, Half Dollars, and Quarters, a work and thorough knowledge of the subject eminently qualifies them."

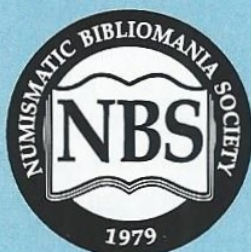
Randall passed away in 1901. The December 1901 issue (Volume 14, page 341) of *The Numismatist* under the heading "Obituary Notes" states,

The old veterans are passing away. From *The Curio*, published by Chas. Steigerwalt, we extract the following: "J. Colvin Randall, the old-time dealer, passed away during last summer. Mason died in September. Both had reached a good old age. Through Randall's hands in bygone years passed many of the finest gems that now grace the older collections."



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Date: _____

¹ Significant Other to a Regular Member ² Age 18 or Younger

*Examine this Book and
notice what remarkably high
prices were paid for old Coins*

PRICED CATALOGUE
OF THE
EXTENSIVE COLLECTION
OF
CHOICE AND VALUABLE
AMERICAN COINS,

COMPRISING MANY
EXTREMELY FINE AND RARE SPECIMENS,
TOGETHER WITH A
VERY LARGE AND COMPLETE COLLECTION OF
STORE CARDS, MEDALETS, POLITICAL TOKENS, ETC.

From the Cabinet of Jos. N. T. Levick, Esq.

WHICH WERE SOLD AT AUCTION

AT THE STORE OF E. COGAN,

No. 48 North Tenth St., Philadelphia,

On Monday and Tuesday, December 19th and 20th, 1859.

WM. C. COOK, AUCTIONEER.

E. COGAN,

DEALER IN COINS AND MEDALS, OLD BOOKS AND ENGRAVINGS,
No. 48 NORTH TENTH STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

A post-sale, priced catalog of Edward Cogan's Fifth auction sale, the collection of Joseph Napoleon Tricot Levick, living then in Philadelphia, held on December 19-20, 1859. Levick has written at the top: "Examine this Book and notice what remarkably high prices were paid for old Coins." A pretty good manifestation of the late 1850s coin mania from one who lived happily through it!

A Word to Coin Collectors

(About Numismatic Mania, from 1878)

by Joel J. Orosz

It has been long understood that the second half of the decade of the 1850s marked an era, not just of enthusiasm for collecting coins, but indeed of a full-fledged hobby *mania*. This was regarded at the time both positively and negatively. Representing the cheerleaders, an unidentified newspaper clipping, circa 1859, celebrates "...the numismatic fever... which rages most about this time..." Weighing in for the crankier observers, Mint Director James Ross Snowden wrote a correspondent named Clayton on January 24, 1859 about "...this increasing, as well as troublesome, taste..." for numismatics, concluding with a veritable curse upon "...all other collectors of Coins, AND THEIR NAME IS LEGION."

Evidence residing within the Richard Hoe Lawrence Scrapbooks at the American Numismatic Society Archives, however, suggests that a mania for coins was not entirely confined to the second half of the final antebellum decade. A clipping found in Lawrence Scrapbook 1, p. 13, suggests that in the Midwest, at any rate, the numismatic fever continued unabated some twenty years later.

The clipping consists of a letter to the editor of the *Evening Post*, publishing city unnamed. As of 1878, newspapers by this name were found in New York, Louisville and St. Louis, the latter being the forerunner of Joseph Pulitzer's *Post and Dispatch*. Since Lawrence was a New Yorker, it seems likely that the New York *Evening Post* was his source.

The letter asks about the possible premium value of 1858 half dollars, triggering an exasperated reply from the editors, for whom this obviously constituted one such inquiry too many. The editorial response is a masterpiece of the elegant dismissal, and, save for the reference to "an intelligent Congress," sounds contemporary enough to have been written in 2016. It is transcribed below, with only light editing for accuracy and clarity:

A Word to Coin Collectors,

AND TO ALL OTHERS WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

To The Editors of the *Evening Post*:

(1) Do I mistake? (2) Did you make a solicitation for coin silver money of 1858 last winter? (3) I understand you desired those having fifty-cent pieces coined in 1858 and a few other years I do not remember, sent to you, in return for which you would send more than their face value. (4) Why is this? (5) I have two coined in said year, but they are not generally seen in circulation. (6) Will you explain this matter?

L.S.,

Windfall, Ind., March 9, 1878.

[We have prefixed a number to each sentence in the foregoing letter, for convenience in answering]: (1) You do. (2) We did not. (3) You are a victim of misplaced confidence. (4) We give it up. (5) We are glad to hear it; we hope you will put your two pieces in circulation at once so as to relieve the financial pressure in your state, whence the appeal has come so often to Washington for "more money." (6) The request is somewhat indefinite, but we trust that we have complied with it.

And now, having said a few words for our correspondent's benefit, we may be pardoned if we add a few for our own. This letter of "L.S." is only the latest of an apparently endless series we have received since, in a moment of rashness, we printed a communication inquiring the date and value of a coin of a certain description. We have been asked to negotiate exchanges of coins; to print the names of prominent amateur collectors; to publish the addresses of the dealers in numismatic curiosities in this city; and even to buy outright a few choice pieces which somebody was holding.

In the hope of relieving ourselves of further correspondence of this nature, we beg leave to say that we do not conduct an agency or an "exchange;" that we have no list of amateur collectors here or elsewhere, and could not spare the space to print it if we had; that our advertising columns are always open to the use of dealers in coins who wish to make themselves known, on the same terms as are offered to members of other trades; and that, as our only use for coins is to pay our debts, and an intelligent Congress has supplied us with the means of doing this at ninety cents on the dollar, we have no desire to buy an extra supply at a premium.

EDS. EVENING POST

This delightful article is one of many to be found in the Richard Hoe Lawrence Scrapbooks residing in the Archives of the American Numismatic Society. Arnold Margolis, for example, discovered a contemporary review of Emmanuel Joseph Atinelli's *Numisgraphics*, only the second known to exist, in a Lawrence scrapbook, and wrote a Collins Award-winning article about it (*The Asylum*, Vol. 31, No. 4, October-December 2013). The Lawrence Scrapbooks, given the ephemeral nature of their contents, undoubtedly harbor more secrets waiting to be revealed by an alert researcher.

According to John N. Lupia III's *Numismatic Mall* website, Richard Hoe Lawrence (1858-1936) was an avid bibliophile and numismatist, as well as a notable amateur photographer. He had a special connection to the book arts, for his great-grandfather was the inventor of the Hoe Printing Press. We can be thankful that, among his more exalted pursuits, he included the humble avocation of scrapbooking, saving such fugitive gems as came to his attention; and thanks to him, and to the ANS, to ours.



The Life of Samuel Pozzi

by Shanna Schmidt

Collectors of ancient Greek coins have certainly come across the name Samuel Pozzi when studying pedigrees. The Pozzi collection was a superb group of Greek coins that was partially auctioned off in a 1921 Ars Classica sale. Collectors still get excited when a Pozzi coin reappears in auction. In fact, in January 1921 in the *Proceedings of the American Numismatic Society* there was a mention to this historical auction:

"We have just received the catalog of what will be the most important sale of Greek coins since the war, that of the late Dr. Samuel Pozzi of Paris. This sale will take place on April 4, 1921, at Lucerne, Switzerland. As the introduction to the catalog says, except for the Jameson Collection in Paris, the Pozzi Collection is the one private collection of Greek coins in existence which contains such a large number of rare and important pieces"

Even today, the Pozzi Collection is considered one of the finest collections of Greek coins. While Pozzi's coins are certainly impressive, the life of Dr. Samuel Pozzi has largely fallen into darkness, at least outside of France. One link to the now enigmatic life of Pozzi remains. Far away from Paris a lone painting of Dr. Samuel Pozzi hangs in the Armand Hammer Museum in Los Angeles. Dr. Pozzi befriended the painter John Singer Sargent and in 1881 he painted a controversial painting of the doctor in his bright red dressing gown. The alarm it caused in Paris at the time would be considered unreasonable for today's standards. Unfortunately it created an inaccurate persona of Samuel Pozzi that followed him long after his death.

While his coins are magnificent, what is likely more interesting is the life of Dr. Samuel Pozzi. The time he lived in Paris was one of conflict with the Franco-Prussian War of 1870 but also the beginnings of medical advances that Dr. Pozzi was instru-



John Singer Sargent, *Dr. Pozzi at Home*, 1881.

Oil on canvas, The Armand Hammer Collection, Gift of the Armand Hammer Foundation. Hammer Museum, Los Angeles



One of the beautiful coins from the Dr. Samuel J. Pozzi Collection.
From the Colosseo Collection. Ex Naville I, 1921, Pozzi, 2400; *Ars Classica* XVI, 1933, 1390 and
Leu-M&M 28 May 1974, *Kunstfreund*, 219 sales.

mental in creating. He moved with a circle of friends and acquaintances that lists some very notable people of the times: Charles Darwin, the Straus family, Dr. William Mayo (of the famed Mayo Clinic), Marcel Proust, Émile Zola, Mathilde Bonaparte to name just a few. The 2010 book, *The Diva and Doctor God: Letters from Sarah Bernhardt to Doctor Samuel Pozzi* details the close relationship, both intimate and later friendly, between the famed actress Sarah Bernhardt and her 'Doctor God'. Throughout their decades-long friendship Bernhardt lovingly referred to her close friend as Doctor God because of his apparent godly abilities to heal.

Who was Dr. Samuel Pozzi? Samuel Pozzi was born in 1846 in Bergerac, Dordogne. His life began rather modestly compared to his later greatness. He was the eldest son of a Protestant pastor in a middle-class family. Pozzi's mother died when he was only ten and he and his four siblings were cared for by his elderly grandmother, who he lovingly referred to as 'old lady'. Pozzi's father eventually remarried an English woman, who was only ten years older than Samuel, however, they had a close relationship throughout their lives and because of this relationship Samuel obtained an excellent grasp of the English language.

Samuel Pozzi began studying and practicing gynecology at a time when there was little interest in women's health. In the late 1870s women's healthcare was still very archaic in nature and as a result numerous died in childbirth. Certainly many of these deaths were unnecessary even with the medical tools available at that time. In addition to pioneering techniques that were once known, but not practiced or advanced, Pozzi also cared for the psyche of the woman as well. Aside from his genial nature he had care and interest in the overall well-being of the woman, both physically and psychologically. Perhaps this is the reason for the reputation that Pozzi unfairly received as a womanizer. As seen from photos that exist of Pozzi, he was an attractive man in his youth and in his later years a distinguished gentleman.

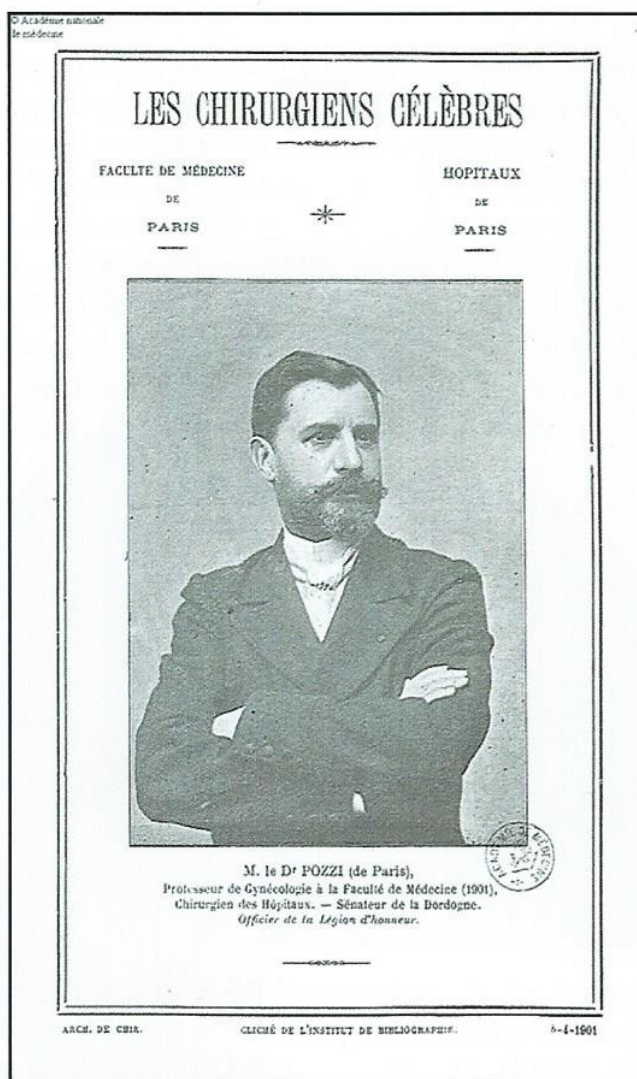
Sarah Bernhardt, a contemporary of Pozzi (she was born two years earlier than

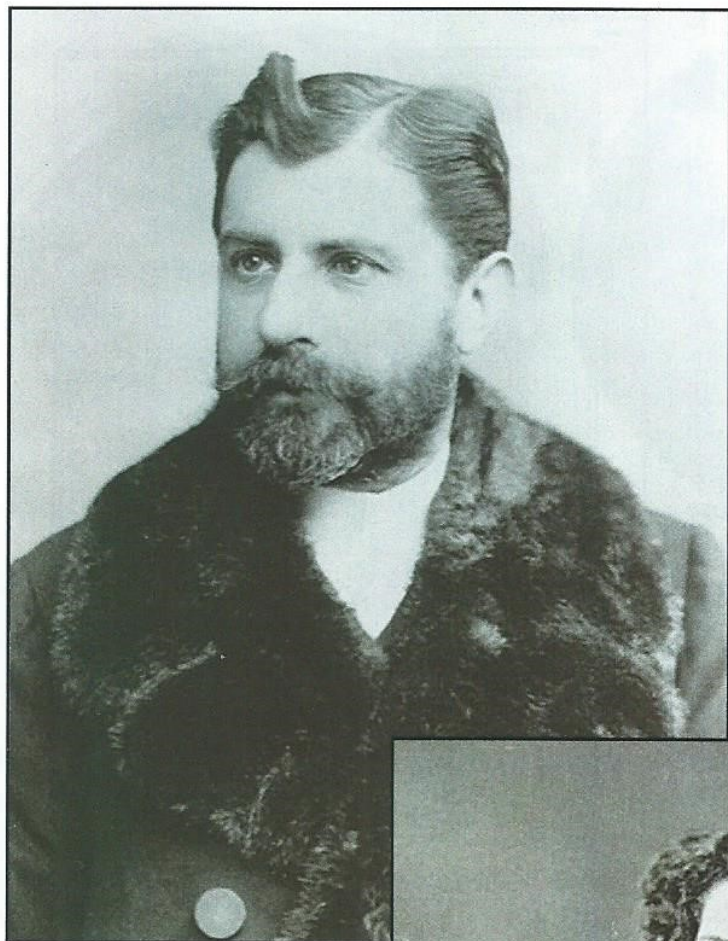
Samuel in 1844), led a much different childhood than Samuel. Sarah's mother was a courtesan and the identity of her father is still disputed. Despite a less than ideal childhood, Sarah persevered to become one of the most popular actresses of her time and still evokes interest even today.

Sarah and Pozzi met when he was still a medical student living in the Latin Quarter of Paris and she a burgeoning actress. Before computers were even a thought in anyone's head, the way of correspondence was letter writing; notes and long handwritten letters were the way relationships were solidified. Unfortunately Sarah burnt all her correspondence with Pozzi but her letters to him remain (they are located in the Parisian archives of Pozzi's great-grandson Nicolas Bourdet) and have come to show the warm relationship that existed between the two. Through the course of their lives, Sarah turned to Samuel to help her with medical issues (a huge ovarian cyst that could have proved fatal if unoperated, kidney stones and finally the amputation of one of her legs). In 1879, just after Samuel married his one and only wife, Thérèse, Sarah penned this note to him:

"How is it that my infinite love and gratitude over so many years have not actually taken root and blossomed in your heart? How is it that I feel the need to tell you again and again that there is no being dearer to me than you? I love you with all the vital and intellectual force of my being, and nothing, nothing could change this feeling, greater than friendship, more than divine than romantic. Love." (de Costa, Caroline and Francesca Miller, The Diva and the Doctor God, 2010, p. 24).

While the marriage to Thérèse faltered, eventually Pozzi, despite being legally married to Thérèse, began a passionate relationship with Emma Fischhoff. The creation of Pozzi's illustrious Greek coin collection was a result of their travels to faraway places and his passion for the field of archaeology. Also, Pozzi may have obtained some of his coins, although not substantiated, through his friend Dr. Gustave Schlumberger, a





(top) Samuel Pozzi and (bottom) Sarah Bernhardt, c. 1865 photographed by Felix Nadar just prior to meeting Samuel Pozzi.

university friend, who was also a numismatist.

Emma Fischhoff, née Sedelmeyer, was the daughter of Charles Sedelmeyer, a well-known art dealer and gallery owner in Paris. In the late 1800s it was not uncommon for Frenchmen to keep mistresses. Pozzi was no exception and hardly to be considered a scoundrel in today's society. With a loveless marriage due in large part to an uncomfortable living environment (Thérèse's mother lived almost exclusively after marriage with the young Pozzi family), Samuel eventually found companionship and love through Emma. Unfortunately after Pozzi's death, Thérèse requested that all the correspondence from Emma be burned, in which her son Jean fulfilled. Curiously, the letters from Sarah remain, likely because Thérèse enjoyed a friendship with her and the sexual relationship between Samuel and Sarah ceased after his marriage to Thérèse.

For such a wonderful man who contributed to the science of gynecology and women's health, his death is only the more tragic. In addition to gynecology, Dr. Pozzi still remained a surgeon and in 1915 he treated a 38-year-old tax official named Maurice Machu. Mr. Machu had varicocele, or varicose veins of the scrotum. Mr. Machu suffered from erectile dysfunction, however, varicocele is not associated with impotence. After a few years of severe impotence Mr. Machu made the calculated decision to take his and Dr. Pozzi's life. On June 13, 1918, he arrived at Pozzi's home unannounced and asked to seek medical advice. When alone in his study, Machu confronted him, pulled out a gun and shot Pozzi twice in the stomach and then turned the gun on himself which proved fatal. Dr. Samuel Pozzi died later while his interns attempted to remove the bullets and repair the bullet wounds.

For those that want to reach more about the life of this extraordinary man, the book *The Diva and the Doctor God: Letters from Sarah Bernhardt to Doctor Samuel Pozzi* by Caroline de Costa and Francesca Miller is an excellent short read and where most of the information on life of Samuel Pozzi can be found. Dr. Samuel Pozzi assembled an amazing collection of coins and for the numismatic community he will always be recognized. Hopefully now his amazing contribution to medicine and the remarkable man he was will be equally remembered.

For more information about the author, Shanna Schmidt, you can visit her website at shannaschmidt.com.



100 Maccabees N Y
30 June 1856

Dear Sir

I received your letter and I
will send you the Coins for your friend at the end
of this week I have some difficulty in obtaining
more except by exchange, there are several here
who have duplicate sets but will exchange
only, and sometimes they want some of my
Medals so ^{by} that means I can obtain them it
was so in this case, a Gentleman from Philadelphia
paid \$12 for one last week. Do inform me
what I must give for a Shilling & a piece of
N.E. 1650 a Gentleman at Baltimore has them
and is willing to sell or exchange

Respectfully yours

Thomas Mott

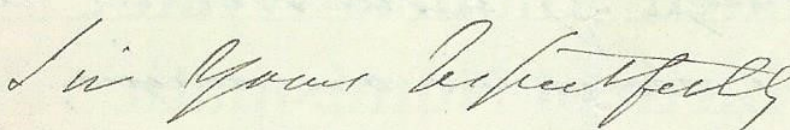

Off the Shelf: Thomas Wyatt and the Birth of Numismatic Fraud in the United States

by David F. Fanning

As a numismatic bookseller, I am lucky enough to handle some truly remarkable material, some of which never finds its way into a public auction where it might get the attention it deserves. This summer, an extraordinary archive of material pertaining to one of the more audacious and famous numismatic frauds of the nineteenth century was sold by our firm to a private collector. The archive consisted of six handwritten letters from Thomas Wyatt (c. 1797–1873). Wyatt was the author of three numismatic works: *History of the Kings of France* (1846),¹ the famous *Memoirs of the Generals, Commodores, and Other Commanders ... Who Were Presented with Medals by Congress...* (1848)² and a rare pamphlet titled *A Description of the National Medals of America, Presented to the Officers of the Wars of the Revolution and 1812* (1854).³

In the mid-1850s, Wyatt began striking medals, tokens and related items specifically for the nascent collector market. He also began producing high-quality struck reproductions of rare American colonial coins, which were privately marketed as original coins emanating from a hoard discovered in 1856. The “Chelsea Hoard,” as it became known, allegedly consisted of a group of Massachusetts silver coins that had been sealed in a bottle and forgotten about for two hundred years. In fact, the coins were all forgeries (and in some cases fantasy pieces based on coins that never actually existed, such as Pine Tree pennies). Perhaps most famous is Wyatt’s “copy” of the Good Samaritan Shilling, a coin that existed only in the form of a fantasy piece first depicted on the well-known plates prepared before 1730 (and published in 1746) depicting the collection belonging to Thomas Herbert, 8th Earl of Pembroke.⁴ Wyatt’s direct source for some of the dies he had created would seem to have been the engravings included in Joseph Felt’s 1839 *An Historical Account of Massachusetts Currency*.⁵ It has long been surmised that Wyatt faithfully copied the fine horizontal lines across the blank field of the NE shilling (added to the Felt illustrations to give depth to the images), thus providing collectors with the easiest method of distinguishing the Wyatt pieces from originals. A fascinating account of Wyatt and his work is given in Eric P. Newman’s masterful *The Secret of the Good Samaritan Shilling*.⁶

Wyatt’s copies did not remain undetected for long. Boston numismatist Jeremiah Colburn led the charge against Wyatt in August 1856, publishing excerpts from his correspondence with him and noting that soon after the “discovery” of the so-called hoard, “complete sets of this coinage poured into our city. ‘N.E.’ shillings and sixpence, before so rare, together with some other pieces never before seen, were to be found exposed for sale in this city ... all these pieces are counterfeit, and made by a man in New York city, who represents them to be originals.”⁷ Colburn corresponded

Letter dated 20 June 1856 by Thomas Wyatt.

with Wyatt beginning in June 1856, the same month as the “hoard” was announced.

The group of letters that recently came to market begins in the same month, tracing Wyatt’s fraudulent scheme from its beginnings in June 1856 to its unraveling just two months later. As a unique and unpublished record of one of the most famous numismatic forgeries in the United States, it is of considerable importance. Some excerpts follow.

Letter One: 20 June 1856. Wyatt writes, “I received your letter and I will send you the coins for your friend at the end of this week I have some difficulty in obtaining more except by exchanges, there are several here who have duplicate sets but will exchange only, and sometimes they want some of my medals so by that means I can obtain them it was so in this case, a gentleman from Philadelphia paid \$12 for a set last week.”⁸

Letter Two: 5 July 1856. Wyatt writes, “I received your letter this morning contain[ing] \$4.00 for coins sent to Mr. Ellis, and I acknowledge yours the other day containing \$6.00 for the set of coins I now send you. You say, you wish them as good as the last. I am obliged to send them to you as I got them, I have no way of choosing the good from the bad... I can procure the N.E. sixpence & shilling for 6\$ the two and this same gentleman tells me that a friend of his at Charl[e]ston S.C. has 2 of each which he can probably obtain for me by some exchange he says he has got the coin of the ‘Good Samaritan coined in Massachusetts’ what is it? If I can obtain another set I will let you know.”

Letter Three: 14 July 1856. Wyatt writes, “I send you the other set of N.E. money and I am trying to get the other (Pine Tree) as you wish, you shall [have] the 2 pennies as soon as I get them and as cheap as I can bargain for them I do not think they will want more than 1/50 each and perhaps not more than a dollar each. As soon as I receive the Good Samaritan piece I will enclose it to you with their price and you can do as you please about keeping it, a widow lady of Chambersburg has 6 of the pine tree money pennies in a collection belonging to her late husband a Gentleman assures me he can obtain them for me she wishes to sell the collection I have requested to know particulars in it are 2 splendid Lord Baltimore shillings I wish we could divide it amongst us I must see what I can do. I have received a letter from Mr Colburn also from a Mr Brown both wishing for Pine Tree Money...”

Letter Four: 28 July 1856. Wyatt writes, "I have received the \$8 for the N.E. Money, I send you the sixpence & twopence as you requested, you can have the pennies at \$1 each the same as I give for them. As to the Pine Tree Money being Counterfeit I believe no such thing if it is so, it was got up in Boston for I saw & examined the bottle &c myself with many others and they all pronounced them genuine ... The N.E. Money has been in Mr. Rob't Gilmore's Cabinet for many years at the sale his coins were scattered and I have frequently an opportunity of picking them up by exchanges, the 'Good Samaritan' belonged to him & was purchased by a gentleman in Washington who now is anxious to exchange coins for medals with me, when I receive it I will send it for inspection, he says there are two others in a Cabinet at Chambersburg which he has written to obtain..."

Letter Five: 7 August 1856. Wyatt writes, "I have not received the Good Samaritan till this morning's mail and I enclose it for your approval. Now its history is this. I cannot obtain it without giving 10 Revolutionary medals for it, these medals cost me 70 cents each I have permission to return it if I please, you have traded considerable with me and if you like it for seven dollars you shall have it and I do not make one cent by it beside the postages to Washington several times. Mr Colburn requested as soon as I received it I would send it to him. I told him he should see it meaning that if you kept it you would show it to him, if you do not, you can let him have it for 8 dollars and not less, he says in his last letter 'I defer remitting for the coins till I receive the Good Samaritan.' but I made no such promise I wish to be correctly understood as I wish to do what is right and give offense to no one. ... Let me hear about the Good Samaritan, some time I can give you its history and what it was coined for &c it is interesting."

Letter Six: 12 August 1856. Wyatt writes, "Whatever you may be disposed to think, I have acted justly to you in every point and that man does not live that can accuse me of the reverse without slander & falsehood but there is a clique here that what they cannot obtain by fair means they will by defamation and trickery. Mickley of whom you speak I never saw but once in my life more than 10 years ago and have never heard of him since. Bushnell is a young lawyer in Wall St that I see perhaps once in 3 or 4 years I have no acquaintance with him. I keep aloof from all. I thank you for your friendly hint you are quite mistaken about the coins being spurious metal, we tried them here in Nitric Acid and they were pronounced good silver."

It is fascinating to read these letters and recognize the lengths Wyatt went to in order to create false provenances for his creations. On many occasions, he simply alludes to sources ("a widow lady of Chambersburg," "a gentleman"); on others, he blatantly lies (citing the Robert Gilmore collection, for instance). He often preferred to exchange his creations for other (presumably authentic) coins, perhaps as a way to protect against charges of fraud if discovered. The turn of events made a strong impression on the young hobby and the notoriety of the pieces has never faded. Indeed, Wyatt's creations have become a popular collectible in themselves, appealing to those of us fascinated by the history of the coin collecting hobby in the United States.

Notes

1. Wyatt, Thomas. *History of the Kings of France; Containing the Principal Incidents in Their Lives, from the Foundation of the Monarchy to Louis Phillippe, with a Concise Biography of*

- Each. Illustrated by *Seventy-Two Portraits of the Sovereigns of France*. Philadelphia: Carey and Hart, 1846. Includes 18 plates engraved by W.L. Ormsby, illustrating 72 medals. Attinelli 119.
2. Wyatt, Thomas. *Memoirs of the Generals, Commodores, and Other Commanders, Who Distinguished Themselves in the American Army and Navy during the Wars of the Revolution and 1812, and Who Were Presented with Medals by Congress, for Their Gallant Services*. Philadelphia: Carey and Hart, 1848. Includes 14 plates engraved by W.L. Ormsby depicting both sides of 41 medals. Attinelli 119.
 3. Wyatt, Thomas. *A Description of the National Medals of America, Presented to the Officers of the Wars of the Revolution and 1812*. New York: Published for the Author by Charles Vint-en, 1854. Includes a finely engraved frontispiece plate depicting both sides of the Preble medal. Not listed in Attinelli.
 4. Pembroke, Thomas (Earl of). *Numismata Antiqua in Tres Partes Divisa. Collegit Olim et Æri Incidi Vivens Curavit Thomas Pembrochiæ et Montis Gomerici Comes*. (Londini): Prelo demum mandabantur A.D. MDCCXLVI. Features 306 engraved plates of coins, including the earliest known engravings of a number of American colonial coins, including the Lord Baltimore sixpence and groat, Massachusetts Willow Tree threepence, sixpence and shilling, Oak Tree twopence and the Carolina Elephant token.
 5. Felt, Joseph B. *An Historical Account of Massachusetts Currency*. Boston: Printed by Perkins & Marvin, 1839. Includes one lithographic plate of colonial coins and lithographic facsimiles of a 1690 Massachusetts Treasury note and a 1775 twenty-four shilling note. Attinelli 107.
 6. Newman, Eric P. *The Secret of the Good Samaritan Shilling: Supplemented with Notes on Other Genuine and Counterfeit Massachusetts Silver Coins*. New York: ANS, 1959. *Numismatic Notes and Monographs*, No. 142.
 7. Originally published under the pen-name "Nummus" in the *Boston Transcript* for August 19, 1856. Later published in the *American Journal of Numismatics*, Vol. VII, No. 1 (July 1872), pp. 4–5 under the heading "Counterfeit 'N.E.' and Pine Tree Money."
 8. Although Wyatt's use of punctuation is unconventional, the meaning is nearly always clear. For that reason, the letters have not been edited. Any editorial clarifications are in [brackets]. Ellipses indicate material not quoted and are not in the original letters.



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Book Review

Truth Seeker: The Life of Eric P. Newman

by David Gladfelter

Leonard Augsburger, Roger W. Burdette and Joel Orosz, *Truth Seeker: The Life of Eric P. Newman* (Dallas, Ivy Press, Inc., 2015). Edited by James L. Halperin. Xiii, 418 pages, \$19.95.

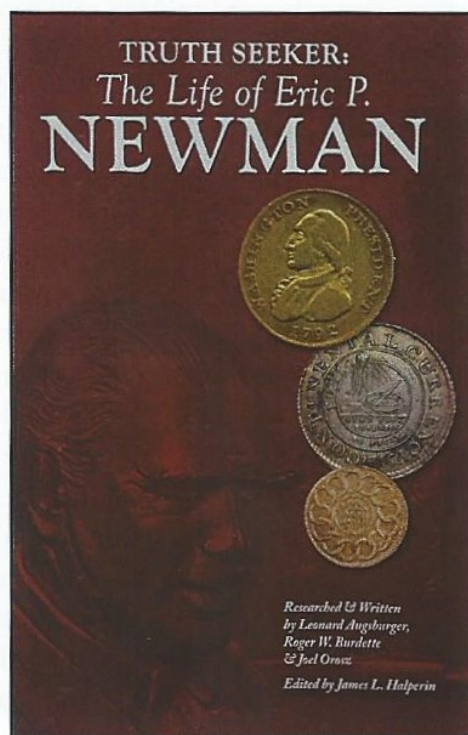
Eric P. Newman: his name is familiar to all numismatists, his publications to many, his exchanges of correspondence to some, his personal friendship to a wide circle. His influence within the field is strong and abiding. His career in law and numismatics combined has spanned an incredible 80-plus years and his lifetime more than a century, and his contributions keep on coming. Who is this extraordinary person?

He is at once set apart and one of us, as one will discover in the pages of this fine biography, carefully and thoroughly crafted by three top researchers in the numismatic field. Enjoying direct personal access to their subject and his extensive correspondence and documentary files,

they have painted from life Newman's portrait in words, a portrait of inquiry and perseverance, diligence and discovery, formulation and persuasion; a portrait revealing Newman as possessing and using superb investigative and analytical skills combined with plain old-fashioned "people skills"; a portrait describing a man of ethics and ideals. Each author had his job to do, and perhaps a careful reader can recognize one or another of their individual styles in this chapter or that. But, to mix a metaphor, this book has the ensemble quality of a string quartet, each author and the editor contributing his part to achieving a harmonious whole. In short, the book is an unusually well done team effort.

A man set apart: experts from Crosby to Raymond to Yeoman had speculated on the origin of the "Good Samaritan" shilling, but it was Newman in 1959 who tracked it down. An even deeper numismatic mystery, the origins of the dollars dated 1804, was Newman's to solve, working with Kenneth Brésette in 1962, their conclusions confirmed at the last minute by disclosure of the diplomatic gift set containing a previously unknown specimen of the novodel. These stories are among Newman's major publications.

A man set apart: Newman played a major role in exposing the Western gold coin and gold bar forgeries marketed by John J. Ford, Jr., beginning in the 1950s. This saga,



involving experts of many backgrounds and persuasions, litigation, arbitration, and the Smithsonian Institution itself, played out over decades. In the end Newman was vindicated; the complicated story, capping Newman's "lifelong quest for truth," is told in detail in 90 pages of text. In another instance, Newman, acting on behalf of the American Numismatic Society, negotiated the settlement of a decade-long litigation over the theft by substitution of coins from the ANS by William H. Sheldon and the resale of the stolen coins to other collectors, with the result that 39 of the 71 stolen coins were returned to ANS and terms of compensation for the remaining coins were agreed to.

Yet one of us: anyone who had a nerdy first date with his eventual spouse can relate to Eric Newman taking Evelyn Edison to see an Indian mound. (The following year they married – neither of them could think of any reason not to.) Evelyn Newman, "whose independent stream of creative ideas and accomplishments has continued to effervesce for our mutual enjoyment during my many years of numismatic research" (dedication page, *Early Paper Money of America*), traveled widely with Eric and shared philanthropic pursuits, currently including the Newman Numismatic Portal at Washington University in his home city, St. Louis.

Yet one of us: young Eric started his collection with a gift 1859 Indian cent, along with assorted pocket change, proceeding with the help and guidance of local dealer Burdette Johnson. After beginning his legal career, Newman's collecting took a serious turn with major acquisitions together with Johnson from the estate of E. H. R. Green. While Newman seldom attends coin shows, except as an occasional speaker, he frequently welcomed collectors to his home, including Boy Scouts working toward a merit badge in numismatics. He has been a mentor to many, including myself, although he must now limit the demands upon his time.

Readers will enjoy cameos of those with whom Newman has worked. They include Burdette Johnson and E. H. R. Green (already mentioned), Wayte Raymond, F. C. C. Boyd, Walter Breen, Q. David Bowers, George Fuld, Don Taxay, members and staff of the ANS, and many others.

The reader can be grateful for the text's extensive citations, which point him/her to material drawn from many collateral sources as well as from Newman and his records. I particularly appreciate the footnotes being placed on the same page as the material cited, because I like to refer to them as I go along and would find it clumsy to have to turn to the back of the book, necessitating two bookmarks. Unfortunately there is no index. It is also unfortunate that the book is not available in a hardcover edition.

At the end is a fine annotated bibliography of Newman's publications, which expands on that published by Robert Wilson Hoge in the *ANS Magazine*, 10(2):10-19 (2011). The book is well illustrated throughout.

In sum: this is a well written, well documented account of an accomplished and admirable figure in numismatics, one whom readers will want to learn about and understand, one who now says to us, as Sherlock Holmes famously said to Dr. John Watson: "You know my methods. Apply them!"



Eid Mar coin (42 BC) celebrating
the assassination of Julius Caesar
experienced by a 5th grader.



Made possible by the generosity of a Chicago collector

Photography by tonmaday.com



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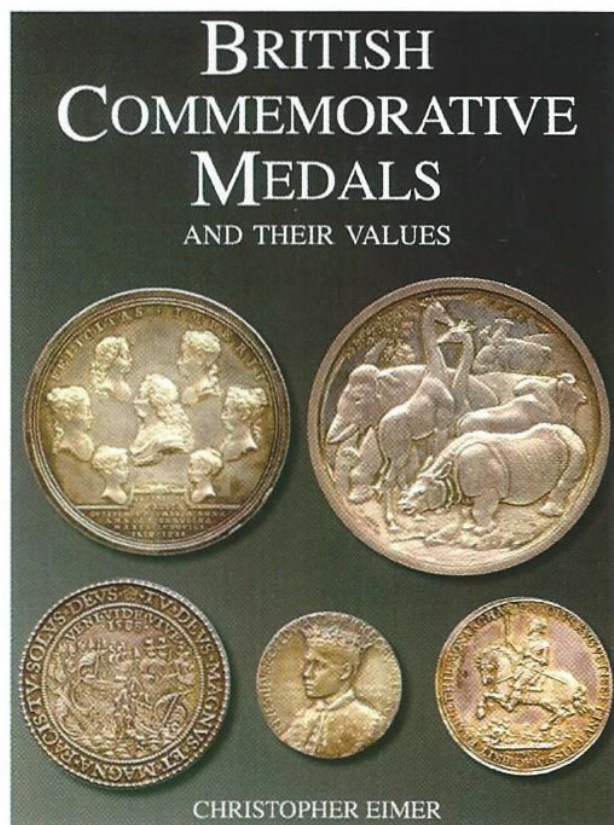
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